

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 COME-00 INT-05 CEQ-01 SMI-01
IO-14 L-03 EPAE-00 /046 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:CHSANDERS:EF
APPROVED BY OES/ENP:BLLONG
NOAA: R.ROE
INTERIOR:T.WOLKERSTORFER
INTERIOR/FWS/FWPO:R.PARSONS
CEQ:L.TALBOT (INFO)
OES/OFA/FA:B.HALLMAN
ARA/MEX:K.MCKUNE

-----070496 210544Z /14

P 210311Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 128339

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, MX

SUBJECT: SEA TURTLES

REF: STATE 89270

1. AS INDICATED REFTTEL, U.S. IS KEENLY INTERESTED IN
POSSIBILITY OF BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH
MEXICO ON SEA TURTLES, SPECIFICALLY ON PACIFIC (OLIVE)
RIDLEY AND GREEN SEA TURTLES, IN ADDITION TO JOINT WORK
ALREADY UNDER WAY ON ATLANTIC RIDLEY.

2. DURING APRIL 27 VISIT BY GOM DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
OFFICIAL- LIC. ARTURO DIAZ-ROJO; TO WASHINGTON ON
OTHER BUSINESS WITH USG, HE CALLED AT DEPT. OF INTERIOR
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(AT INTERIOR'S REQUEST) TO DISCUSS U.S. POSITION REGARDING
TERMINATION OF U.S. COMMERCIAL IMPORTS OF PRODUCTS FROM
SEA TURTLE SPECIES (INCLUDING PACIFIC RIDLEY AND GREEN)
LISTED ON APPENDIX I OF ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION.
RICHARD PARSONS, CHIEF OF INTERIOR/FISH AND WILDLIFE
SERVICE FEDERAL WILDLIFE PERMIT OFFICE, WHICH IS ALSO
U.S. MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FOR CONVENTION, EXPLAINED THAT,

APART FROM ALLOWING COMPLETION OF SHIPMENT OF UNDELIVERED
BALANCE OF ONE LARGE U.S. ORDER FOR PACIFIC
RIDLEY SKINS WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED BEFORE THIS SPECIES

WAS MOVED FROM CONVENTION APPENDIX II TO APPENDIX I IN
FEBRUARY, 1977, U.S. OBLIGATIONS UNDER CONVENTION REQUIRE
US TO PROHIBIT ANY FURTHER COMMERCIAL IMPORTS OF SEA
TURTLE SPECIES LISTED ON APPENDIX I. (U.S. POSITION ON
SUBJECT HAS ALSO BEEN SET FORTH IN DETAIL IN MAY 1 LETTER
FROM PARSONS TO DIAZ-ROJO, DRAFT OF WHICH WAS DISCUSSED
WITH HIM DURING APRIL 27 MEETING. COPY OF PARSONS LETTER
HAS BEEN POUCHED TO EMBASSY FISHATT FOR INFO.)

3. DIAZ-ROJO SAID THAT SCIENTIFIC ADVICE AVAILABLE TO
HIM IN MEXICO, LARGELY FROM INDUSTRY SOURCES, INDICATES
THAT THESE SEA TURTLE SPECIES ARE NOT THREATENED WITH
EXTINCTION AND THEY THEREFORE BELONG ON CONVENTION APPEN-
DIX II, WHICH ALLOWS INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL TRADE IN
LISTED SPECIES IF EXPORTING COUNTRY CERTIFIES THAT THE
TAKING WAS LEGAL AND NON-DETRIMENTAL TO SURVIVAL OF THE
SPECIES. HE INVITED U.S. REPS TO MEXICO TO SEE SEA
TURTLE SITUATION FOR THEMSELVES AT FIRST HAND. HE SAID
THAT MEXICO WOULD WELCOME SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION WITH
U.S. IN MAKING A MORE CONCLUSIVE DETERMINATION
OF THE STATUS OF THESE SEA TURTLE STOCKS IN CONNECTION
WITH ONGOING REVIEW BY ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVENTION
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PARTY COUNTRIES OF ALL SPECIES LISTED ON APPENDICES, IN
PREPARATION FOR ACTION AS NECESSARY TO AMEND CURRENT
APPENDICES LISTINGS AT NEXT CONFERENCE OF PARTIES IN
COSTA RICA IN MARCH 1979. PARSONS REAFFIRMED STRONG U.S.
INTEREST IN MEXICO'S BECOMING A CONVENTION PARTY AND
JOINING IN WORK OF CONVENTION, WHICH WOULD BE BEST WAY
TO ENSURE THAT MEXICAN CONSERVATION INTERESTS AND VIEWS
GIVEN FULL WEIGHT; HE ALSO EXPRESSED U.S. DESIRE TO WORK
WITH MEXICO ON SEA TURTLE ASSESSMENT, WITHIN USG MANPOWER
AND FUNDING LIMITATIONS, IN CONNECTION WITH CONVENTION
APPENDICES REVIEW.

4. FOLLOWING UP ON DIAZ-ROJO'S EXPRESSION OF INTEREST,
REQUEST THAT EMBASSY PROPOSE TO GOM A JOINT U.S.-MEXICAN
SCIENTIFIC MEETING IN MEXICO IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS
SEA TURTLE TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. U.S. PARTICIPANTS
WOULD INCLUDE BOTH GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT SCIEN-
TISTS. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT AGENDA INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

-- 1. REVIEW OF STATUS OF STOCKS.

-- A. ASSESS ALL AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC DATA.

-- B. REVIEW PAST COMMERCIAL DATA.

-- 2. IDENTIFICATION AND DISCUSSION OF DATA WHICH
SHOULD BE COLLECTED AND EXCHANGED IN FUTURE.

-- 3. CAUSES OF DECLINE OF SEA TURTLE STOCKS.

-- 4. RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONSERVATION MEASURES.

-- 5. ACTION WITH RESPECT TO ENDANGERED SPECIES CONVEN-
TION.

-- 6. POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATION.
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5. MEXICAN AUTHORITIES HAD OFFERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH
POSTPONED MAY 2 U.S.-MEXICAN SEA TURTLE TALKS (REFTEL)
TO ARRANGE FIELD TRIP TO SEE MEXICAN WEST COAST SEA
TURTLE NESTING GROUNDS. U.S. PARTICIPANTS IN PROJECTED
MEETING WOULD STILL VALUE THIS OPPORTUNITY IF FEASIBLE.

6. WE STRONGLY URGE CONVENING ABOVE MEETING BY END OF
JUNE, IF POSSIBLE, SO AS TO ENABLE MEETING'S CONCLUSIONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN
ONGOING REVIEW BY CONVENTION PARTIES OF CONVENTION
APPENDICES.

7. PLEASE ADVISE. VANCE

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To: MEXICO
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